



Release: July 29, 2003  
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### **Missouri's Unemployment Rate Remains Well Below National Average**

Missouri's unemployment rate rose in June, but remained well below the national unemployment rate, which also increased, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Missouri's non-farm payroll employment, however, grew in June for the third consecutive month. Employment increased by 4,800 jobs, on a seasonally adjusted basis, between May and June. Employment jumped by 6,900 in May and by 12,500 in April. Since January, Missouri's employment has grown by 36,800.

"We are optimistic about the consistent growth of the labor force since early this year and by the fact Missouri's unemployment rate remains significantly below the national rate," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "Even though our rate, like the national rate, reflected an increase in June, we are continuing to see signs of an economic rebound in Missouri. Relative to many other states, we are definitely seeing positive and exciting trends."

June employment figures showed improvement in leisure and hospitality (9,000 jobs), educational and health services (5,700 jobs), manufacturing (1,700 jobs), and construction (1,600 jobs.) Over-the-month decreases were noted in trade, transportation and utilities (-6,300 jobs); financial activities (-2,900 jobs); government (-2,500 jobs); and other services (-2,000 jobs). Since these are based on seasonally adjusted data, some of the monthly swings may be the result of variations in timing of seasonal change.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment reached 5.6 percent in June, increasing three-tenths of a percent from May. This represents an unemployment level of 168,600. The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained higher at 6.4 percent.

Missouri's unadjusted unemployment rate climbed nine-tenths of a percent between May and June to 5.8 percent, reflecting the seasonal increase that occurs in the summer. The nation's unadjusted unemployment rate also surged last month, rising from 5.8 percent in May to 6.5 percent in June.

With payroll employment growing in recent months, over-the-year employment declines are becoming smaller in Missouri than they were earlier. Between June 2002 and June 2003, employment decreased by 35,800 (1.4 percent), using seasonally adjusted data.

Manufacturing employment decreased by 6,500 jobs between June 2002 and June 2003. The main exception to this trend has been food manufacturing, where employment has increased by 2,700 jobs over the past year.

Employment in the trade, transportation and utilities super sector has fallen by 9,100 jobs over the year. Half of this decrease (4,600 jobs) occurred in air transportation. Retail trade employment has fallen by 4,300 jobs in the aggregate. Durable goods wholesalers have added jobs, on balance, as employment is now 2,000 jobs higher than in June 2002.

Industry groups reporting lower employment than a year earlier include administrative and support services (-5,700), telecommunications (-3,900), construction (-2,800), financial activities (-2,300), leisure and hospitality (-2,500) and government (-8,700).

On the positive side, health care and social assistance have added 5,300 jobs over the year, while employment at religious, grant-making, and civic and professional organizations has increased by 4,800 jobs, on balance.

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**MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**  
**FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES**  
**CURRENT MONTH (JUNE 2003), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS ( APRIL AND MAY 2003), AND YEAR AGO (JUNE 2002)**

	JUN 2003	MAY 2003	APR 2003	JUN 2002		JUN 2003	MAY 2003	APR 2003	JUN 2002
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	6.5	5.8	5.8	6.0	Atchison	3.5	3.0	2.7	3.4
MISSOURI	5.8	4.9	4.9	5.8	Audrain	6.1	5.5	5.6	5.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	6.2	5.3	5.1	6.2	Barton	4.7	3.8	3.6	4.3
Franklin	6.3	4.9	5.1	6.4	Bates	7.4	5.9	6.3	8.0
Jefferson	5.8	4.9	5.0	5.9	Benton	6.9	6.2	6.8	6.1
Lincoln	6.4	5.4	5.5	6.2	Caldwell	7.9	7.1	6.7	7.6
St. Charles	4.4	3.5	3.6	4.3	Carroll	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.8
St. Louis County	5.3	4.6	4.4	5.2	Cedar	7.6	7.2	5.5	6.2
Warren	6.6	5.8	5.3	5.5	Chariton	6.0	4.8	4.9	7.6
St. Louis City	10.6	9.2	8.6	10.7	Clark	6.5	6.4	6.7	7.9
KANSAS CITY MSA	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.9	Cooper	3.8	3.1	3.1	4.2
Cass	5.4	4.2	4.2	4.9	Crawford	7.2	6.6	6.8	6.9
Clay	4.6	4.1	3.8	4.4	Dade	5.5	4.1	3.9	5.9
Clinton	5.1	4.0	4.4	5.4	Dallas	6.4	5.6	6.0	7.0
Jackson	7.0	6.0	5.8	6.8	Daviess	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.5
Lafayette	6.1	4.8	4.8	6.2	DeKalb	6.1	4.2	4.8	5.9
Platte	4.4	3.6	3.4	4.3	Dent	6.7	5.4	6.3	6.6
Ray	6.6	5.0	5.1	5.5	Douglas	7.8	7.0	7.8	11.9
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.9	3.3	3.5	4.5	Dunklin	8.5	7.4	7.5	8.1
Christian	4.2	3.6	3.9	4.5	Gasconade	5.9	5.5	5.6	5.8
Greene	3.7	3.2	3.3	4.4	Gentry	3.2	3.1	2.8	5.2
Webster	4.4	3.7	4.1	6.1	Grundy	6.1	5.0	5.3	4.8
JOPLIN MSA	5.8	5.0	4.9	5.8	Harrison	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.6
Jasper	5.5	4.8	4.6	5.4	Henry	8.3	7.4	7.6	5.3
Newton	6.5	5.5	5.5	6.8	Hickory	9.5	8.3	8.2	7.7
COLUMBIA MSA	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.7	Holt	5.6	5.1	5.0	4.7
Boone	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.7	Howard	4.3	3.6	3.5	6.1
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.9	Iron	8.8	8.3	7.8	10.6
Andrew	4.7	4.2	3.9	5.3	Johnson	4.2	3.5	3.3	4.5
Buchanan	5.8	5.2	5.2	6.1	Knox	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.9
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	3.9	3.0	3.4	3.6	Laclede	10.7	9.8	9.4	6.9
Adair	3.7	2.9	3.1	3.4	Lewis	4.7	4.6	4.6	3.4
Schuyler	5.2	4.0	5.3	5.0	Linn	9.4	6.0	5.9	9.2
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	6.1	5.0	5.1	6.1	Livingston	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.0
Butler	5.3	4.6	4.7	5.4	McDonald	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.4
Carter	7.0	6.0	6.0	8.3	Macon	5.1	4.2	4.9	6.5
Ripley	8.4	6.4	6.2	7.8	Madison	8.1	7.3	7.2	9.8
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.7	4.5	5.6	5.4	Mercer	5.5	5.6	6.9	4.6
Camden	4.4	4.4	5.5	5.0	Monroe	7.1	6.2	6.2	7.0
Miller	5.3	4.6	5.6	6.1	Montgomery	6.9	5.9	6.2	5.7
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.9	5.1	5.0	6.0	Morgan	5.8	5.3	6.1	6.6
Bollinger	7.2	6.2	6.5	7.6	Nodaway	2.2	1.9	1.6	2.4
Cape Girardeau	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.3	Ozark	4.4	4.2	5.3	6.0
Mississippi	8.6	6.2	6.1	7.9	Pemiscot	11.9	10.4	10.5	10.5
New Madrid	11.1	9.4	9.1	10.1	Perry	3.8	3.1	2.9	4.2
Scott	5.8	5.2	5.3	6.3	Pettis	6.9	4.8	4.9	6.6
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.8	3.0	3.0	4.4	Pike	4.9	4.4	4.7	5.9
Callaway	4.0	3.4	3.3	4.2	Polk	5.8	4.8	3.9	6.0
Cole	3.6	2.7	2.5	3.9	Pulaski	4.7	4.1	4.0	5.1
Moniteau	3.3	3.2	3.2	5.2	Putnam	5.6	6.0	7.8	3.6
Osage	5.2	3.9	4.4	6.4	Randolph	5.7	4.6	4.8	6.2
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	6.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	Reynolds	9.3	8.7	9.2	8.2
Howell	6.3	5.1	5.1	4.8	St. Clair	8.1	7.0	7.1	7.5
Oregon	5.4	4.0	3.9	5.8	Ste. Genevieve	6.1	5.0	5.2	6.2
Shannon	6.5	6.2	6.5	5.1	Saline	5.7	4.8	4.6	6.9
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	5.0	4.4	4.5	5.4	Scotland	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.3
Barry	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.8	Shelby	4.9	4.4	4.9	5.1
Lawrence	5.3	4.6	4.5	6.0	Stoddard	6.6	5.5	5.7	6.6
MARION-RALLS LMA	5.8	5.3	5.1	5.7	Stone	6.4	6.7	9.0	6.2
Marion	6.1	5.3	4.9	5.8	Sullivan	9.4	9.2	10.9	3.8
Ralls	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.6	Taney	4.7	4.9	7.2	4.7
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.7	2.9	3.1	3.9	Texas	9.0	7.6	7.4	7.3
Maries	4.7	3.2	3.4	6.1	Vernon	5.2	4.3	4.3	6.6
Phelps	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.5	Wayne	11.1	10.3	10.2	12.1
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	8.4	7.5	7.1	8.8	Worth	6.4	4.7	4.2	7.5
St. Francois	7.8	7.1	6.5	8.2	Wright	7.8	7.0	6.6	9.1
Washington	9.7	8.6	8.7	10.4					

NOTE: Data for counties within MSAs/LMAs are disaggregated from MSA/LMA totals.

NOTE: Substate area data for 2002 have been revised but are provisional: not yet official and subject to change.

Produced by MERIC, in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics